United Nations S/2008/127

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 February 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 21 February 2008 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the letter from the President of the Security Council dated 21 December 2007 (S/2007/754) in which the Council approved the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) for three years, until 31 December 2010, and recognized the critical role played by that office and by my Special Representative in promoting an integrated approach towards peace and progress in that subregion.

In that connection, I wish to inform you of my intention to appoint Said Djinnit of Algeria as my new Special Representative for West Africa and head of UNOWA. Mr. Djinnit, who is currently serving as Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, will take up his functions on 1 April 2008. He will replace General Lamine Cissé, who has been serving as Officer-in-Charge of UNOWA since September 2007 when Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah was reassigned as my Special Representative for Somalia.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Messrs. Ould-Abdallah and Cissé for their dedicated contributions to United Nations efforts for peace and progress in West Africa.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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